

STAFFORD COUNTY  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MINUTES

MARCH 5, 2009

Call to Order. A regular meeting of the Stafford County Historical Commission was called to order by Anita Dodd, at 3:12 P.M., Thursday, March 5, 2009 in Conference Room ABC, Stafford County Administration Center.

Roll Call. The following members were present: Anita Dodd, Chairperson; Jane Conner and Cessie Howell.

Also in attendance were: Kathy Baker, Assistant Director, Planning & Zoning; Jeff Harvey, Director, Planning & Zoning; Terry Baxley Morton, Commission Clerk.

Presentations by the Public. No one desired to speak.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

Item 1. Approve Minutes of Commission Meeting. Jane Conner motioned, seconded by Cessie Howell to approve the February 5, 2009 Commission meeting minutes with minor corrections.

The Voting Commission Tally was:

Yea: (3) Conner, Dodd, Howell

Nay: (0)

Jane Conner was informed by the caretaker of Stewart Jones Ed.D. that she would no longer be able to serve on the Commission. The Board must appoint someone to fill the vacancy.

- High Occupancy/Toll (HOT) Lanes. Kathy Baker said staff received a letter from VDOT in reference to the HOT Lanes expressing a need for the Commission's comments and suggestions on the plans for the highway's environmental study. She said the comments would be for a preliminary engineering study. The Commission inquired about materials available for review. The Commission agreed to review this request upon receiving information regarding the Hot Lanes.

Steve Gambaro attended the meeting for a short time to submit his letter of resignation to the Commission and to forward to the Board. He said it was very fulfilling serving on the Commission for many years. He said his resignation is not for negative reasons but because of family health issues. He retired as Safe Director of Rehabilitation in Washington DC. He began making adaptive devices for handicapped people; later he went into administration. He has designed a safety device to help his family member and plans on sharing it with others. He thanked everyone for their support.

Anita Dodd said the Commission is sorry to lose him as a member and thanked him for his service.

There are currently vacancies in four districts: Aquia, George Washington, Griffis-Widewater and Hartwood.

Item 2. Organize Commission. This item was deferred until a later date, giving the Board of Supervisors an opportunity to appoint additional members to the Commission.

Item 3. Fannie Roots House – Update. Anita Dodd submitted a letter addressed to Beate Jensen, Landscape Preservation Supervisor with Belmont to the Commission for approval regarding the Fannie Roots House. Cessie Howell said she thought the letter was informative.

Cessie Howell motioned, seconded by Jane Conner to submit the letter to the trustees as written.

The Voting Commission Tally was:

Yea: (3) Conner, Dodd, Howell

Nay: (0)

Item 4. Report on Demolition of Structures in other Jurisdictions. Cessie Howell spoke with Kathleen Kilpatrick, Director and State Historic Preservation Officer, Department of Historic Resources. She referred to State Code 15.2-2306. Each jurisdiction can have an ordinance regarding this issue. She cited the city of Charlottesville as an example.

Discussion ensued.

Kathy Baker said she would follow up with the city of Charlottesville. She said different options could be written into an ordinance, for example, asking the applicant to offer the opportunity for someone to move the structure. She said the Commission could research other jurisdictions to get ideas on crafting a new ordinance that the Board would be interested in adopting. The Commission thanked her.

Discussion ensued.

Anita Dodd reminded the Commission that a historical preservation ordinance has been in committee with the Board for some time. The ordinance deals with properties to be developed. The ordinance could include the Commission's recommended requirements. Planning Staff applied changes to the ordinance before it was submitted to the Board's committee. The Commission requested staff locate the current redrafted version for them to review.

Arch DiPeppe of the Planning Commission suggested having a County Attorney attend the next meeting to answer questions and give advice regarding writing the ordinance. Kathy Baker said she would contact the County Attorney's department.

Report of the Chairperson. Anita Dodd commented on the following:

- Redevelopment - Anita Dodd said she received a request from Brad Johnson, Director, Redevelopment, regarding suggestions for procedures to occur during the redevelopment process in reference to existing structures. She asked the Commission review the correspondence she

crafted. She received a CD of the Cultural Resources Study/Inventory of Redevelopment Areas, however, she is requesting a hard copy of the document as well.

Cessie Howell motioned, seconded by Jane Conner to submit the correspondence to Brad Johnson as written.

The Voting Commission Tally was:

Yea: (3) Conner, Dodd, Howell

Nay: (0)

- Greenhowe Cemetery - The developer desires to relocate nine burials located by the Cemetery Committee to a family cemetery surrounded by a development. The developer has established a 35-foot buffer around the burial sites and is conducting heavy grading around the property. Anita Dodd is concerned that the delineation carried out by the cultural resources firm initially cannot determine where all the burials are located and suggests a more in depth delineation be conducted. In addition to the 35-foot buffer, the developer will install a fence and signage as required by the cemetery ordinance.

Discussion ensued.

The Cemetery Committee located nine additional burials. The family was notified of this discovery. Barbara Kirby said when modifying cemeteries, a permit must be issued by the State. She said the application does not actually require the applicant to identify the exact location of reburial.

Discussion ensued.

- Moncure Conway Foundation is sponsoring a lecture on March 15, 2009 about The Apostles of Freedom in Civil War Fredericksburg and Falmouth, Virginia by Crandall Shifflett Ph.D., a professor and author from Virginia Tech.

- A citizen, Ann Best-Rolls, asked Kathy Baker for an update on the Belmont-Ferry Farm Trail. She said staff is currently redesigning the portion that goes through the Falmouth bottom area at Cambridge and Washington Streets. She said staff is waiting for the engineers to meet with VDOT staff. Staff has issues with the alignment. One of the building's porches is in VDOT right-of-way.

Adjournment. At 4:17 P.M., the Chairperson declared the meeting adjourned.

Anita Dodd – Chairperson